

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 764 – SB 819

March 7, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to transfer potential Water Quality Control Act (WQCA) violation cases to the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for investigation. Requires TWRA to notify TDEC and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) after receiving complaints, or if TWRA personnel become aware of potential water quality violations on agriculture property, and requires TDEC investigations on agricultural property to be conducted in consultation with DOA. Prohibits TWRA from investigating Water Quality Control Act violations.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004701): Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires TWRA to notify the TDEC and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) after receiving complaints, or if TWRA personnel becomes aware of potential water quality violations on agriculture property. Prohibits TWRA from investigating Water Quality Control Act violations. Authorizes other state agencies to assist the TDEC concerning the proposed provisions. Requires the DOA to be notified of any agricultural activity investigations.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Currently, TDEC notifies the DOA of alleged water impact violations associated with agricultural activities; therefore, any impact due to requiring TDEC to consult with DOA involving agricultural property investigations is estimated to be not significant.
- The provisions of this bill as amended essentially codify the current practices of the TDEC; as a result, the fiscal impact of the bill as amended is estimated to be not significant.

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- This bill as amended will not prohibit TWRA personnel from investigating cases where pollution of water results in injury to aquatic life, or the destruction of habitat for aquatic life.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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